

City of St. Albans.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1945.

ST. ALBANS :

PRINTED BY H. A. RICHARDSON, LTD., 5 HIGH STREET.

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Public Health Department.

Dr. R. R. K. PATON, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.
Assistant School Medical Officer.
Medical Superintendent, Sisters' Hospital.

R. E. C. GODDARD, F.S.I.A.,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.
Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

C. A. BAILEY, M.S.I.A., M.R.SAN.I.,
Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector.
Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

A. L. GOOD, M.S.I.A., M.R.SAN.I., A.M.I.S.E.
Sanitary Inspector.
Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

C. W. MCHUGO, F.I.C.,
Public Analyst (part-time).

MRS. J. E. CLEAR.

To the Mayor and Corporation of the
City of St. Albans.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

We have the honour to present to you our Annual
Report for the year 1945.

General Statistics.

Area (acres), 5,129.

Population (1931 Census), 28,625.

Population (estimated), 41,200.

Rateable Value, £396,851.

Sum represented by penny Rate, £1611.

Vital Statistics.

	Birth Rate per 1000 Population	Death Rate per 1000 Population	Deaths under 1 Year per 1000 Births
England and Wales	16·1	11·4	46
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns in- cluding London	19·1	13·5	54
148 Smaller Towns (1931 Census 25,000 to 50,000)	19·2	12·3	43
London	15·7	13·8	53
St, Albans City	15·6	11·5	39

Mortality Table.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever ...	...	...	...
Diphtheria ... ..	...	...	...
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	8	3	11
Other forms of Tuberculosis ..	1	...	1
Syphilitic Diseases	2	...	2
Influenza ... ..	...	4	4
Measles ... ..	...	...	...
Encephalitis lethargica ... ..	...	...	...
Cancer	26	37	63
Intracranial Vascular lesions ...	22	34	56
Heart Disease	53	61	114
Other Circulatory Diseases	7	14	21
Bronchitis	14	10	24
Pneumonia	16	10	26
Other Respiratory Diseases	2	2	4
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ...	5	1	6
Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years) ...	1	...	1
Appendicitis	1	...	1
Other Digestive Diseases ..	5	7	12
Nephritis	4	10	14
Puerperal Sepsis, &c. ... ..	...	...	...
Premature Birth	2	2	4
Congenital Malformation	6	5	11
Suicide	3	...	3
Accidents	9	2	11
Other Violent Causes... ..	7	2	9
Cerebrospinal Fever ... ..	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	1	...	1
Scarlet Fever ... ..	...	...	...
Diabetes... ..	...	1	1
All other Causes	34	40	74
All Causes... ..	229	245	474

Infant Mortality.

Of the 25 deaths of infants under one year 15 were due to Premature Birth and Congenital Defects.

Notification of Infectious Diseases during the Year.

DISEASES.	Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.
Diphtheria	8	8
Scarlet Fever	37	24
Pneumonia	13	...
Erysipelas	14	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	1	..
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	4
Sonne Dysentery	1	1
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	2	2
Whooping Cough	69	...
Measles	246	...
Jaundice/Hepatitis	15	...
Pulmonary T.B.	48	...
Non-Pulmonary T.B. ...	20	...
Total	478	40

Tuberculosis.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1	...	1	5	1	...	...	...	...
5	...	...	3	3	...	...	...	...
10	1	...	2	1	...	...	...	...
15	1	2	1	...	...	...	...	...
20	2	4	1	...	1	...	...	...
25	4	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
35	5	4	...	1	1	4	1	...
45	7	...	..	...	2	1	...	...
55	7	1	1	1	2	...	...	...
65	6	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	33	15	13	7	6	5	1	...

Hospitals, Nursing Arrangements, etc.

General Hospital—St. Albans and Mid Herts, Church Crescent.

Infectious Diseases—Sisters' Joint Hospital, Normandy Road.

Public Assistance Institution and Infirmary—Oster House, Normandy Road.

Emergency Maternity Hospital—Diocesan House, Verulam Road.

St. Albans District Nursing Association—29 Beaconsfield Road.

During 1945, 127 Maternity cases were nursed to which 2,558 visits were paid, and 922 General cases to which 18,244 visits were paid. Visits have also been made regarding 263 Post-Natal and 694 Ante-Natal cases.

School Medical Service.

58 visits were made to schools for routine medical examination and 1,697 children were examined. 337 children were found to have defects and were referred for treatment.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The number of children immunised against Diphtheria during the year was 475. Of this number 462 were under school age and 13 between the ages of 5 and 15 years.

Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic—Wellington Court,
Bricket Road.

The numbers at the Centre in 1945 were as follows :

Number on Register—Expectant mothers, 768.

Children (under 5), 1319.

Number of Attendances—

Expectant mothers (consultation with doctor) 1,311.

Children (under 5) seen by doctor, 2,913.

Attendances, 7,438.

Average weekly attendance of 143 children.

Number of deaths among these children, 6.

Number of children referred to the Orthopædic
Clinic, 37.

Inspections, Disinfections, etc.

Inspections.

During 1945, 3,306 inspections were made of premises including dwelling houses, grocery and provision shops, restaurant kitchens and cooked food premises, factories, bakehouses, cowsheds, dairies and milkshops and offensive trade premises. In connection therewith 976 defects were remedied.

Disinfection and Disinfestation.

Disinfection was carried out in connection with 69 cases of notifiable infectious diseases, and 25 in connection with Tuberculosis and Cancer.

Thirty-three complaints of bed-bug infestation were received and disinfestation was carried out, including seven premises disinfested with H.C.N.

Public Cleansing.

386 cesspools received attention, and at approximately 120 houses pail closets were emptied twice weekly.

Housing.

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts)	1077
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Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	<i>Nil</i>
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Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the previous sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	454
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Remedy of defects during the year without

Service of Formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	416
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Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Premises.

Regular inspections were made of food preparing premises, including bakehouses, restaurant kitchens, slaughterhouses and butcher shops, fish shops, grocery and provision shops, dairies, etc. They were found to be in a cleanly condition.

Examination of Food and Drugs.

During 1945, 125 samples were submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis. The samples included sixty-five samples of milk, three each of castor oil and glycerine, two each of baking powder, liver sausage and Gripe mixture, and one each of chocolate pudding mixture, "Zahna" (Banana flavour), gelatine, camphorated oil, magnesia (carbonate), mixed spice, scone mixture, sponge mixture, zinc ointment, boracic ointment, petroleum jelly, aspirin, coffee, vinegar, bicarbonate of soda, borax powder, alum, glauber salts, Epsom salts, iodised tablets, Opit

tonic, ground nutmeg, ground ginger, ground cinnamon, curry powder, mustard sauce, Piccalilli, faggots, breakfast or luncheon sausage, sausage meat, "Grosvenor" pie, peroxide of hydrogen, mustard, pepper, Yorkshire pudding, essence of lemon, Edwards soup, coffee and chicory sauce, cake flour, orange squash, shredded suet, tomato soup, sultana chutney, Iris Cocktail, Parish's chemical food, eucalyptus, tincture of iodine and Friar's balsam.

Fifty-four samples of milk were obtained during the normal course of delivery by the retailer to the consumer and of these 53 were reported as being genuine—the average results of analysis being :—Fat 3.6%, N.F.S. 8.82%.

Nine samples were obtained from milk in course of delivery from producers to retailers, and of these one was deficient in fat to the extent of 34%.

Enquiries as to the cause of the deficiency were made and "Appeal to Cow" samples were taken at the farm. It was admitted by the producer that it was his usual practice to partly milk the cows and then to allow the calves to finish, and this was undoubtedly the cause of the fat deficiency in the milk.

Under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, "it is no offence to sell milk below the standard of the Regulations provided it is the actual product of the cow, even if the deficiency is brought about by improper feeding or milking."

The attention of the Producer was drawn to the deficiency in the fat with a view to effecting an improvement.

The Public Analyst reported that another of the samples of milk was deficient in fat to the extent of 8.7%. Subsequent samples taken in course of delivery to the dairy were found to be genuine. Legal proceedings were instituted against the Vendor, who was fined £1 1s. 0d. with £2 2s. 0d. costs.

The Public Analyst reported that a sample of baking powder "was in an unsatisfactory condition and must at some time or another have become damp."

Enquiries revealed that the particular sample referred to was very old stock and had been exposed for sale in the shop window for a considerable period. A second sample from a later consignment was found to be satisfactory.

The Public Analyst reported that the advertising matter enclosed with a sample of banana spread contravened the provisions of the Labelling of Food (No. 2) Order, 1944, and this matter was taken up with the Manufacturers.

The composition of the Gripe Mixture, as determined by the Public Analyst, did not conform with the formula printed on the label, in that the Glycerine content was below the amount stated, and was also deficient in the oils of coriander and clove.

The Manufacturer was cautioned and was requested to withdraw the remaining stock from sale.

The remaining samples were reported as being genuine.

Milk Supply.

There are eight producers of milk in the City, fifteen dairies and fifteen retailers of milk.

Frequent visits were made to the cowsheds, dairies and milk shops during the year and these were found to be in a cleanly condition.

Milk (Special Designations) Regulations. *Regulation 55G*

Six retailers in the City are licensed to sell "Tuberculin Tested" milk, two to sell "Accredited" milk and three to sell "Pasteurised" milk. In addition, one producer is licensed by the Hertfordshire County Council to produce "Tuberculin Tested" milk and two to produce "Accredited" milk.

One hundred and ten samples of designated milk have been submitted for bacteriological examination, and the following results were obtained :—

Designation	No. of Samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Tuberculin Tested	47	32	15
Accredited ...	11	11	...
Pasteurised ...	38	34	4
Heat Treated ...	14	13	1
	—	—	—
	110	90	20
	—	—	—

Ten of the samples of "Tuberculin Tested" milk reported against were repeat or "follow-up" samples during the month of July and August, and the following points may be noted. Some sixty per cent. at least of the milk consumed in the City is produced in other districts and the milk is conveyed to the dairies by road transport. In a number of cases the afternoon milk is retained at the farm overnight and then supplemented by the following morning's milk to await transport. In consequence the milk arrives at the dairy too late for the day's delivery by the roundsmen. It is then bottled and retailed to the customer the following morning so that there is an interval of approximately forty hours between the afternoon milking and the milk reaching the customer.

Although this unsatisfactory state of affairs exists the difficulties at the present time are practically insurmountable.

Water Supplies.

During the year eight samples of water were submitted for bacteriological examination. Four of these were routine samples from the Company's main supply, and the Public Analyst reported that the water possessed a high degree of bacteriological purity.

Four samples were obtained from wells in the Park Street area and were reported as being contaminated and unfit for domestic and drinking purposes. These wells served ten cottages, and in view of the adverse reports representations were made to the respective owners and a piped supply from the Company's main was provided.

Four samples of water from the Corporation's Open Air Swimming Bath were submitted for bacteriological examination and very satisfactory reports were received.

We are,

Your obedient servants,

RICHARD PATON, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

R. E. C. GODDARD, F.S.I.A.,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

